Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

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CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 2317

STADIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSAODR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIN, EAID, EC

SUBJ: TRANSITION LOAN TO ECUADOR

REF: A. STATE 071940; B. MEMCON OF JAN 13, 1975 AMONG ASST SECY ROGERS, DEP ADM MURPHY, MESSRS. KLEINE, WEBEN AND AMB BREWSTER

- 1. YOU MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE OF REF A, AN AIDAC FROM LEINE TO USAID/E MISSION DIRECTOR CODY, WHICH INSTRUCTED THE LATTER TO "TAKE NO REPEAT NO FURTHER STEPS WITH GOE WITH REGARD TO SUBJECT LOAN PROPOSAL." WHILE I UNDERSTAND AID'S RELUCTANCE TO NOTIFY THE CONGRESS OF THE PROPOSED LOAN AT THIS TIME, I BELIEVE TO STOP ALL WORK ON THE PROPOSED LOAN IS UNJUSTIFIED.
- 2. THIS LAST AID LOAN TO ECUADOR IS AS MUCH IN OUR INTEREST AS IN ECUADOR'S. WE HAVE BEEN GRANTING ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOR'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1942 BECAUSE SUCH DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE IN OUR OWN INTEREST. THIS LAST MODEST EFFORT SUBSTITUTES A LOAN FOR PREVIOUS GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A SHORT PERIOD SO AS TO ALLOW EITHER AN ORDERLY PHASE-OUT OF ON-GOING PROGRAMS OR TO ENCOURAGE THE GOE TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAMS LATER WITH THEIR OWN FUNDS.
- 3. I MADE THE PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA IN CONFIDENTIAL

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DECEMBER, 1974. IN ADDITION, THE DCM, THE AID DIRECTOR

AND I, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, HAVE ALSO INFORMED THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, FINANCE, AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION, AND THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD, OF THE PROPOSED LOAN. WE DO NOT YET KNOW THAT THE GOE WILL ACCEPT IT. YET WE ALL KNOW THAT A PROPOSAL TO A PRESIDENT CARRIES WITH IT AN IMPLIED COMMITMENT. WHEN AID/W EARLIER SEEMED TO BE BACKPEDALING ON THIS ISSUE PRIOR TO THE SEI-ZURES OF FISHING BOATS, THE MATTER WAS QUICKLY PUT BACK ON THE TRACKS WHEN WE MET WITH JOHNNY MURPHY (SEE REF B). I DO NOT BELIEVE IT MAKES POLITICAL SENSE TO RENEGE NOW. IF WE DO. IT WILL APPEAR--ONCE AGAIN-- TO BE TH KIND OF POLITICAL ACT OF COERCION THAT HAS NEVER PROSPERED IN ECUADOR AND WILL NOT DO SO AT THIS TIME. WE NOT ONLY WANT TO SEE THE ORDERLY CONTINUATION OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS HERE, BUT WE WANT ECUADOR'S SUPPORT ON VARIOUS ISSUES--OR AT LEAST NOT ITS ACTIVE OPPOSITION.

4. WE MUST CONTINUE WITH THE WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS ALREADY ESTABLISHED IF WE ARE NOT GOING TO IMPLICITLY INFORM THE GOE, BY BREAKING OFF CONTACTS, THAT WE ARE IMPOSING ANOTHER SANCTION. USAID INTERNAL INACTIONS ARE CERTAINLY NOTED BY THE ECUADOREAN STAFF AND FROM THEM MADE KNOWN TO THE GOE.

5. FINALLY, I FIND IT LESS THAN CREDIBLE THAT A THREE

MILLION DOLLAR LOAN WILL SO UPSET AID PROGRAMMING OF THE FY 1975 APPROPRIATION (PARA 2, REF A) THAT THIS LAST COMMITMENT TO ECUADOR NEED BE ABANDONED, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE WILL BE DE-OBLIGATING NEARLY TWO MILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR.

6. I THEREFORE REQUEST THAT THE RESTRICTION BE LIFTED TO PERMIT THE USAID TO CONTINUE, ON THE TECHNICAL LEVEL, STEPS WITH THE GOE PENDING FINAL DECISION ON THE 620(0) REVIEW. IF THE DECISION LATER IS NEGATIVE, I SUGGEST WE TAKE THE LUMPS LATER RATHER THAN NOW BEFORE THE UPCOMING OASGA. BREWSTER

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